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ADM-6.2

OEL 258/67

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Logistics

SUBJECT : Request for Task Order Assignment to Basic Contract with [REDACTED]

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1. The operational requirements of the many user groups varies to such an extent that tape recorders may exhibit widely different characteristics. The complete operational range varies from very low tape speeds at low data rates for long term recording, to relatively high tape speeds at data rates of ammegacycle or higher.

Based upon an evaluation of these varied operational needs, the concept of a Modular Programmed Tape Recorder was evolved, which with only one tape transport and a choice of associated electronics, would make it possible to meet many of these needs with a minimum investment in equipment.

The essential characteristics of this recorder are as follows. The size of the machine will be 4 x 11 x 13 inches, utilizing 10-1/2 inch NAB standard hub reels of 1/2 inch tape in a coaxially stacked configuration. Modular programming of the functions will permit operation over a wide range of AC mains voltage and frequency, or from a variety of DC power sources. Tape motion may be programmed for any speed from 1-7/8 to 60 inches per second. Other options will permit programming for single or multiple passes of the tape; a choice of the number of recorded tracks per pass with a maximum of 7 recorded tracks; and a choice of heads and appropriate electronics to determine the bandwidth of the recorded information.

Once the recorder has been programmed with suitable modules for a specific function, the operator will only be concerned with turning the recorder ON and OFF, and with changing tape reels as required.

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GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

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2. Five (5) companies were requested to submit bids for the development of the recorder, based on Specification RD-64-123-D. [REDACTED] submitted a "No Bid". [REDACTED] submitted bids as requested.

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Following an evaluation of the three bids, the [REDACTED] proposal was rejected on the basis of price and because it appeared that there were a number of areas of uncertainty in their technical approach.

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In making the choice between [REDACTED], the final determination became one of price alone. Although the technical approach is radically different in each case, the feasibility of each concept has been based on proven performance in somewhat similar, bidirectional recorders.

Although the quotation for Phase I of each company is almost identical, the quote for the complete program shows a marked difference, with [REDACTED] the low bidder.

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Completion of Phase I as funded within this fiscal year, will result in an engineering "breadboard" of the tape transport system, and sufficient electronics to prove the feasibility of the concept. Initiation of Phase II will be contingent upon evaluation of the program at the appropriate time, and funding within this next fiscal year.

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3. It is, therefore, requested that a Task Order be assigned to the Basic Agreement with [REDACTED] for Phase I only in accordance with the attachments as amended by this memorandum.

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Since funding will be done by phases, [REDACTED] has advised that there will be an additional sum of one (1) dollar as a

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fixed fee for each phase. Therefore, the Total Estimated Cost for Phase I shall be [REDACTED] with delivery as scheduled. The cost summary is described on page 3-2 of the "Cost Proposal, Modular Programmed Tape Recorder", attached.

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The deliverable material is described on page 3-5 of the same document, and will be a working breadboard model of the desired recorder. The cognizant project engineer is [REDACTED], extension 4518.

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GEORGE C. MILLER  
Assistant Director for ELINT, DD/S&T

George C. Miller

## Attachments

- 25X1A5a1 A. Specification RD-64-123-D  
B. [REDACTED] Proposal

## APPROVED:

APPROVED BY

30 MARCH 1964

/s/ ALBERT D. WHEELON  
Deputy Director  
(Science and Technology)

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